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29 October 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Kirkpatrick

*DOE REVIEW
COMPLETED*

1. Dr. Jerry Johnson, formerly Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Atomic Affairs and now serving on the Roddis Panel, came in to see me to express deep concern over the imminence of a substantial Chinese nuclear capability and a delivery capability. Johnson was a member of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Panel that issued a report on Chinese nuclear capability, which CIA and, for that matter, the Intelligence Community disagrees with.

2. Johnson also said that he felt the Chinese had a rather immediate thousand mile range missile capability built around the SS-4 which could deliver a 3,000 lb. nuclear warhead.

3. Additionally, he said the Chinese Communists had demonstrated they could now build a 3,000 lb. nuclear warhead.

4. I would like all of these matters explored. I think the Air Force report, which Johnson was a party to, overstates the ChiCom situation. I also feel there is no evidence to support his position that a missile delivery capability is imminent. I told Johnson rather emphatically that I thought he had been been "taken in" by some Pentagon parochial views, and because of his stature in the Government and with the Livermore Laboratories he should take a very careful look at this.

5. Will you please discuss this with Smith, Wheelon, OSI and others and be prepared to talk with me on it later in the day or Friday morning. *

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JOHN A. McCONE
Director

*Dictated but not read

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